

The Sun.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1884.

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the week ending Dec. 6, 1884, was:

Sunday	121,642	Monday	109,916
Tuesday	101,274	Wednesday	99,065
Thursday	100,590	Friday	92,355
Wednesday	100,590	Total for the week	787,277

Polygamy Revived.

It seems, according to the report of the Utah Commission, that despite acts of Congress directed against the practice, polygamy is more earnestly advocated than ever among the Mormons, and, instead of diminishing, polygamous marriages are on the increase in Utah. During the present year, says the report, there appears to have been a polygamous revival, and "the institution is boldly, defiantly defended and commanded by the spiritual leaders."

This is a very natural result of what the Mormon fanatics regard as persecution. As one Mormon, who was convicted of unlawful cohabitation under the EDMUNDS act, said to the Court before receiving sentence of fine and imprisonment: "I very much regret that the laws of my country should be in conflict with the laws of God, but whenever they are I shall invariably choose the latter." And, as he truly said, he represented the feelings and convictions of his co-religionists, who look upon him as a hero of the faith.

With the exception of the small sect of Josephites, who are regarded as schismatics, every Mormon believes in polygamy, and yet, as a matter of fact, three-fourths of the Mormon adults, male and female, do not carry their faith into practice. Accordingly, the preachers who are defending and urging polygamy, and whose fanatical efforts are assisted by the EDMUNDS act, do not lack for material to work among. Men and women who would instinctively avoid plural marriages or refrain from them from prudential motives, are driven into polygamy by appeals to their passionate religious devotion. Because they invite the punishment of the earthly law they will be all the more eager to attest their subjection to what they are taught to regard as the higher law of God. Moreover, the Mormon Church surrounds the plural marriage rites with greater and greater secrecy, and, as this report says, the courts find that even the immediate relatives of the parties and the high officers of the Church are ready to swear that they know nothing in regard to their occurrence.

Polygamy is likely, therefore, to receive a new and strong impulse from such acts, as that drawn by Mr. EDMUNDS. An institution which seemed to be falling into decadence gains new life and makes new headway when it is attacked by the State. The Mormon fanatics originally thrived under assault, and polygamy, once kept in the background, is now, because of the attacks of Congress, boldly pushed from the front by apostles of the monstrous delusion who are ambitious of wearing the crown of martyrdom.

It is most difficult and dangerous manifestation of religious madness for the civil Government to deal with. Meantime the Mormon missionaries in this country and abroad are working more successfully than ever, and Utah is steadily getting foreign additions to its fanatical population. The efforts of the Government to repress polygamy and weaken the Mormon power are, so far, utterly futile, and tend to increase rather than diminish the number of converts, for they serve to attract attention to Mormonism, which offers much that is seductive to men and women who are oppressed by the leaderships of life.

No doubt the Mormons seem to be at all fearful of losing their hold on Utah, which their missionaries extol as the promised land. They are laying out vast sums of money on their four temples, edifices to which they attach a peculiar sanctity, and to which their ordinary meeting houses and tabernacles are only subsidiary. Already two millions have been spent on the temple at Salt Lake City, and yet it will be five years before it is completed. They are laying their social and religious foundations deep, and, as if they meant them to last for generations.

The difficulties of the Utah Mormon problem are greater than ever, in spite of our efforts to oppose religious fanaticism with the penalties of civil law, if not of worse. We seem today to be further than ever from a successful result, and the vitality of the system perfected by BRIGHAM YOUNG becomes more and more wonderful.

Bismarck Baited in the Reichstag.

No doubt Prince BISMARCK was intensely annoyed at the huge majority by which, on Wednesday, the Reichstag refused to support him in opposing Dr. WINDTHORPE's motion to repeal the law of the empire authorizing the Government to exiled or internists. But they who, relying upon loosely worded telegrams, imagine that this proceeding on the part of the German House of Commons was anything more than a moral demonstration and can have any positive effect upon the Chancellor's newer or policy, misconceive the situation and strangely overestimate the resources of his enemies.

It seems well nigh as difficult for English as for American observers to keep in view the constitutional framework of the German empire or the fundamental distinction between imperial and Prussian legislation. Otherwise we should not be informed that Wednesday's vote in the Reichstag could repeat anything, much less the FALK or May laws, which affect the kingdom of Prussia only, and with which the German Parliament is not competent to meddle. There is, to be sure, a small fragment of Germany over which the imperial Government exercises unlimited authority, viz., the Federal district of Alsace-Lorraine, which holds toward the lawmaking organs of the empire a relation analogous to that borne by our Territories and the District of Columbia to our national Legislature under the American Constitution. It is also true that, after the *Cultuskampf* had been launched in Prussia and the Ministry of that kingdom had asserted a right of rigorous control over the

Catholic hierarchy, a bill was passed by the Reichstag and the Bundesrat and signed by Kaiser WILLIAM, conferring equivalent powers upon the Federal executive in Alsace-Lorraine. It was of this ancillary measure, narrowly circumscribed in application, that Dr. WINDTHORPE on Wednesday persuaded the German House of Commons to express a decided disapproval.

But for all this vote of censure, the Federal law, so bitterly offensive to the Catholics of Alsace-Lorraine, will stand unrepented until the wishes of the Reichstag are agreed to by the Bundesrat and the Emperor, events of which at present there is not the faintest likelihood. And even in the remote contingency of the statute bearing on the Federal district being rescinded by the consent of the three powers which must concur to effect legislation for the empire, it is by no means certain that the repeal of the Prussian FALK laws would follow. For Prince BISMARCK, when apparently disposed to compromise, experienced great difficulty in obtaining the acquiescence of the Prussian Chamber of Deputies and those of Peers in his proposal that the execution of the harsh statutes should be left to the discretion of the royal Government.

From a legal and practical point of view,

utilize. Another important fact, mentioned by KIDDE, is that the systems of the Congo and the Zambezi Rivers lock into each other in such a manner that by some improvement in the existing condition of the rivers, and by cutting a canal about twenty miles through a level of country, they might be connected, and internal navigation be established from the west to the east coast.

The new State also includes Nyangwe, the large native trade centre of the upper Congo in whose markets STANLEY saw daily from 2,000 to 3,000 people exchanging some sixty different sorts of merchandise, such as food supplies, animals, pottery, ivory, fuel, war and agricultural implements, tobacco, pipes, and slaves. It embraces the great Lake Tanganyika and the ten rather enterprising tribes whose farms, iron works, and fisheries lie along Tanganyika's nine hundred miles of coast. It also includes the Konda country north of Lake Nyassa, which Cousin EYER declared was the first tract of Africa he had seen. The new Congo State, in brief, is very rich in undeveloped resources, and is peopled to a large extent by tribes that have made considerable progress in agriculture, pottery, and iron working, and are among the best specimens of the African races. Much of the country is elevated from 2,000 to 5,000 feet above the sea and is comparatively healthy.

It will take many years to realize in this country the hopes of the African International Association for the development of trade. When it is considered, however, that in the infancy of well-directed commercial enterprise in this region, Liverpool alone is exporting \$5,000,000 of goods a year to the Congo district, there seem to be good grounds for the belief that the Congo may become a considerable market. Several hundred miles up the river STANLEY found Dutch, British crockery, cotton cloth, and guns among natives who hardly knew of the sea. The imports had been passed from tribe to tribe up the river.

We know that many of the native tribes in the Congo State are great traders; that they gather from long distances to Ujiji, Nyangwe, and other markets to sell their ivory and exchange the products of their farms, potteries, and smithies. Will the enterprises which civilized nations are pushing forward among these people stimulate their business instinct, and so favorably affect their character and habits as to make their country a source of valuable trade?

The experience of traders, explorers, and missionaries in the past five years is certainly encouraging. The natives in many places are beginning to accept coin in payment for labor or food, and are anxious to obtain our manufactures. One of the most encouraging facts is that the millions who inhabit the plateaus of the new Congo State and the tribes of South Africa that have advanced furthest from savage life have a common lineage. They all belong to the Bantu or Kafir stock, which, in physical, mental, and social development, is far superior to the true negro. This fact has an important bearing on the prospects of developing the country.

A Night Among the Jurywomen.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Washington Territory is very much pleased with the system which admits women to the jury box. In his charge to the Grand Jury at the opening of the present term of court, Judge GUERNSEY paid a high compliment to the jurywoman. "Ladies and gentlemen," said he, "I have now held twelve terms in which women have served as grand and petit jurors, and it is certainly a fact beyond dispute that no other twelve terms so summary for restraint of crime have ever been held in the Territory." This is certainly true.

Accordingly, many farmers, at the West especially, are at their wits' ends to get wives and helpmates, and some of them have written us bitterly complaining that the girls of their neighborhoods turn up their noses at them, and have approving glances for citybred youths only. If, therefore, the Castle Garden officials show a disposition to hold them out of their difficulty, we have no doubt that hundreds of Western farmers will hasten to avail themselves of such a matrimonial agency, and that fair immigrant maidens will find husbands immediately upon their arrival in this port.

But experience seems to show that such attempts to artificially stimulate matrimony are pretty sure to be unsuccessful or to produce unhappy results. When women were sent from Massachusetts to Oregon to be wives for the pioneers of that thriving State, it was hoped that a new and happier sphere had been found for maidens of the Puritan Commonwealth who had no chance of getting husbands at home. But the experiment did not work well, and after a brief trial the project was abandoned. The women shipped to the Pacific coast did not kindly to their new surroundings, and the businesslike character of the enterprise offended the sensibilities of such as were best fitted for matrimony. They could not overcome their prejudices in favor of old-fashioned courtship, and accordingly the attempt to relieve Massachusetts of its surplus of maidens was brought to a rather ridiculous conclusion. If women are few in a region the reasonable inference is that it is not ready for them, and that they are not adapted to the circumstances of life there. In due time Oregon became attractive to them, and now we hear no complaints of the scarcity of the sex in the State. In this city there are more women than men, because the demand for female labor is so great that a working girl gets employment more easily than her, and the social advantages and excitements of society are even more prized by the poor than by the rich.

Now it is discovered that the new amendment is couched in such loose language that expert lawyers differ as to its bearing upon the sinking fund, and now we have the prospect of seeing public works stopped or seriously interfered with, and perhaps the city mulcted for heavy damages in a multitude of lawsuits.

All of which goes to show that the administration "Go slow," in this case, was more wise than useful.

New York no statesman?—Boston Herald.

We shall see.

All of Kittery and a large part of Portsmouth will crowd when it reads WILL CHANDLER's solemn declaration in favor of "excluding politicians from the management of navy yards."

Although various political orators have declared that the day of sentimental politics is passing away and the day of practical politics is coming, the fulfillment of the prophecy seems to be long delayed. A signal illustration of it was the fate of the new constitutional amendment. It was not discussed during the campaign, except by THE SUN, and that was the only source of opposition. Doubtless very few if any of the voters knew anything about its practical effect.

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Was Governor CLEVELAND a railroad deadhead when he came from Albany to New York to the Actors' Fund Benefit? We hope not.

Treat the Reporters Well.

Each new mystery, like that of the Carlton House collar, emphasizes the value of the newspaper for the detection of crime and criminals. The prompt publication of facts at first inexplicable leads to the development of others, so that recognitions of lost persons or of property through the newspapers are of daily occurrence. The old time police methods of keeping things quiet have become obsolete. When a person disappears, the family, instead of secreting, welcome the reporter, and the chances are that the missing one will be traced in a few days.

The reporter is a hard-working, well-meaning man. Take him in and treat him well. We shall be all the happier for it.

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What the Secretary of State Can Do.

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